CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Coke and Steel Scrap Requirements and Supplies	DATE DISTR.	15 June 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Information		

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Coke

1. The relatively high output of lignite in East Germany insures an adequate supply of briquettes for generators for steel and rolling mills, and there are no difficulties either in quantity or quality. On the other hand, according to statistics now available for 1954, supplies of metallurgical coke for coke furnaces can only be assured if considerable quantities are imported. In 1954, requirements of metallurgical coke for East Germany amounted to 4,890,000 tons. Of this total, 2,300,000 tons were produced domestically and 2,590,000 tons were imported, chiefly from Poland. In 1955, it is planned to produce 2,600,000 tons and to import 2,750,000 tons, making a total of 5,350,000 tons.

2. The increasing demand for smelting coke has raised the question of the extent of the suitability of coke produced from lignite for smelting. Coke for smelting requires a sulfur content not exceeding 1% and an ash content of 9%. It was decided to carry out experiments at VEB Grosskokerei Matyas Rakosi, Lauchhammer, which is in the vicinity of the Friedlander and Klein Leipisch coal fields. It is estimated that these coal fields contain reserves of 750,000,000 tons of coal which could be made into briquettes or coke. However, in spite of all attempts to reduce the sulfur and ash content of the coke, it still exceeds the percentages required; the sulfur content is up to 2.4% and ash is up to 12%. Other shortcomings are greater friability as compared with coal, the largeness of the lumps, and the volume of the pores. The reactive quality and the pressure resistance, however, are superior to that of coal.

3. It is possible to use the slow-burning coke produced at Lauchhammer by mixing with coal coke (in lumps larger than 45 mm.), particularly imported coal coke, for smelting and other metal processing work in low-shaft furnaces, as is done at VEB Eisenhüttenwerk West, Calbe/Saale.

4. 25X1 recent research and experiments have made it possible to use high-temperature lignite coke in the metallurgical industry.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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5. Planned production of high-temperature lignite coke for 1955 is 650,000 tons, a figure which does not indicate any appreciable lessening of the quota for the metallurgical industry with its minimum requirements of 2,800,000 tons a year. The briquette balance should improve, however, as a result of the recent opening of mines, expansion of facilities, and increased production, and in spite of the reduction in the planned figures caused by the 1954-55 weather. In particular, after the completion of construction at Lauchhammer, metallurgical plants will be able to obtain larger supplies of gas. The Riesa and Groeditz plants can be supplied more economically than from the existing gas generator supplies. But the construction at Lauchhammer depends on the supply of material for the technical structures, a matter which hitherto has left much to be desired.

Steel Scrap

6. In the first few years after the war, steel plants were able to obtain adequate supplies of steel scrap from ruins and war material. In 1951, a shortage of scrap began to be felt because of increased steel production. Since 1951, steel scrap has been imported, as shown (in 1000 tons) in the table below:

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 (Plan)
East German production	1130	1010	866	926	970	990
Imported	----	32	87	234	280	320
Totals	1130	1042	953	1160	1250	1310
Foundry Scrap	448	406	368	423	485	500

7. There will be no improvements in the steel scrap situation until the production capacity of VEB Eisenhuettenkombinat J.W. Stalin, Stalinstadt, is used to the full. Until then, steel scrap will have to be imported, especially since the collection of scrap by the population has not fulfilled expectations.

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